TL 807

amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/05/89
Distr: UA/SC

Please organize up to 10 appeals per section.

UA 163/89 Possible "Disappearance"/ Fear of Ill-treatment 6 June 1989

EAST TIMOR/INDONESIA: Manuel Fatima GUTERRES, aged 42

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Manuel Fatima Guterres, married with five children, who has not been seen since he was taken from his home in Dili by four military officers at about 8pm on 25 May 1989. According to reports, he was taken to a local military detention centre for interrogation, but efforts by his wife, Maria de Fatima Patrocinio Guterres, to locate him have so far been unsuccessful.

Manuel Fatima Guterres, who owns a small shop in Venilale, East Timor, was reportedly accused of supplying food and supplies to Fretilin guerrillas operating in the area. Fretilin (Frente Revolucionario de Timor Leste) has been waging a guerrilla war for independence since 1975, when Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former colony. Since establishing his shop several months ago, Guterres had reportedly been followed and repeatedly questioned by unidentified Indonesian authorities.

Nearly all victims of human rights violations in East Timor over the past thirteen years of de facto Indonesian rule in the territory are people who have been accused, either formally or informally, of association with Fretilin. Moreover, family members of suspected Fretilin supporters including children and the elderly, have been the victims of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial execution, by elements of the armed forces. In March 1979, for example, the mother of former Fretilin President Nicolao Lobato, was extrajudicially executed together with four of her children: in the same month her husband and a fifth child were also killed.

Guterres is said to be related to former Fretilin activists, including Joao Bosco Quintao whose arrest in December 1977 and subsequent "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution in March 1979 were documented by Amnesty International in 1985 (see AI Index ASA 21/16/85).

Amnesty International believes that, in view of Manuel Fatima Guterres' reported family links with former Fretilin members, and the allegations of his support for Fretilin guerrillas, he and his family may be in grave danger.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In spite of the recently announced "opening" of East Timor, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of grave human rights violations in the territory. In October and November 1988, an estimated 3,000 people were reportedly detained in connection with the visit of Indonesian President Suharto. Although most of those detained were subsequently released, at least 30 people and possibly many more remained in detention several months later. Eight people detained at the time of the mass arrests were tried and convicted of belonging to an "illegal organization", the Yayasan Santo Antonio, an off-shoot of the Catholic Church in East Timor. They were scheduled for release within a few months of their trials in February and March 1989. Amnesty International believes that they may have been prisoners of conscience, detained for the non-violent expression of their religious and political beliefs.

In a Pastoral Note dated 5 December 1988, East Timorese Bishop Msgr. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo (Apostolic Administrator of Dili and Titular Bishop of

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience.* It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners.*

Lorium), claimed that torture and ill-treatment at the time of the arrests had been widespread. He condemned as "barbaric" the systematic use of torture by Indonesian authorities in East Timor and decried the "lying propaganda according to which abuses of human rights do not exist..." there. More recent reports, including the personal testimony of East Timorese refugees, have provided details of torture, ill-treatment and two cases of extrajudicial execution carried out by members of the Indonesian armed forces in late 1988. In January 1989, the Governor of East Timor, Mario Carrascalao reportedly admitted that human rights abuses continue to occur in the territory. According to one source, the Governor said: "It happens, there are still violations of human rights. But they are not authorized. If the army violates human rights I tell the military commander." (Toronto Star, 5 February 1989).

In view of the consistent pattern of human rights violations in East Timor over the last 13 years, and considering the reports of continued violations since October 1988, Amnesty International believes that people detained on suspicion of having links with Fretilin, may be in grave danger of ill-treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/airmail letters (up to 10 per section):
- expressing concern about Manuel Fatima Guterres who has not been seen since he was taken from his home by four military officers on 25 May 1989, despite efforts by his wife to locate him;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to clarify his whereabouts and seeking assurances that his safety will be guaranteed while in custody;
- calling on Governor Mario Carrascalao to uphold his reported aim of holding to account those military officers who authorize or carry out human rights abuses;
- whilst welcoming news of the "opening" of East Timor in January 1989, nonetheless expressing concern about reports of human rights violations in the territory since the arrests of October and November 1988.

APPEALS TO:

General Try Sutrisno
Pangab
Markas Besar ABRI
Cilangkap
East Jakarta, Indonesia

(Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces)

Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno, Markas Besar ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Ir. Mario Viegas Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jl. Inpantai D. Hendrikue Dili
East Timor

(Governor of East Timor)

Telegrams: Gubernur Carrascalao, Dili, East Timor

May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan
Pangdam IX Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia

(Regional Military Commander)

Telegrams: May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan, Pangdam IX, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

COPIES TO:

Msgr. Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, SDB
Keuskupan Dili
Camara Eclesiastica, Chancelaria,
Secretaria Episcopal
Jl. Gov. Alves Aldeia 25,
Dili, East Timor

(Apostolic Administrator of Dili, Titular Bishop of Lorium.
Salutation: Ex.mo e Reverendissimo)

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 July 1989.

- Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.
- Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

  Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

  Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

  Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."
- The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.
- Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.
- In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.
- Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.